

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 27, 2022

This Gospel story is one of the most popular of Luke's pericopes.

Let's look at the Younger Son first. He starts complaining to his Father, that he wants his share of the inheritance, He wants to be independence, and desires to leave. After some time trying to make something of himself, he ends up feeding the pigs, a most demeaning job especially for Jewish people. But he "comes to his senses" and returns to his father in shame. Disgraced.

His heartbroken father sees him coming from "a long way off" and runs out to meet him with open arms, welcoming him home. He cannot contain his joy! "We must celebrate!"

Now, as this drama continues to unfold, the resentful, self-righteous older brother refuses to join in the celebration. The father comes out to reason with him to join in the feast but, the elder brother is indignant. He lashes out to his father with anger and.... accuses the father of favoring the younger son over himself.

So, we have these three individuals

The younger son

The Father of these two sons

The Older son

With which one do you find yourself feeling most identified?